

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3-7 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant will shortly file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of these claims.

Please add new dependent claim 8 as follows:

~~8. (New) The magnetooptical recording medium of claim 1, wherein the first magnetic layer and the third magnetic layer are magnetically coupled by exchange coupling.~~

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 8 are pending. Claims 3-7 have been cancelled without prejudice pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 1 and 2 are all the claims of U.S. Patent No. 5,831,944, as issued, and have not changed. Claim 8 recites that the coupling between the first and third magnetic layers in the recording medium is by exchange coupling. This addition is consonant with the restriction requirement. No new matter has been added. An appendix showing the status of the claims is attached pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.175.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner has required restriction between two allegedly distinct inventions:

Group I, claims 1-2, directed to a magnetooptical recording medium and method, with an intermediate layer for adjusting exchange coupling force; and